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LETTER DATED 12 OCTOBER 1999 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I should like to recall that, following consultations with the Government of Liberia and the Security Council, the first United Nations Peace-building Support Office (UNOL) was established in Liberia on 1 November 1997.

Since its establishment, the main focus of UNOL has been to provide the Government of Liberia with support in its efforts to consolidate peace, promote national reconciliation and strengthen its democratic institutions. UNOL has also been providing a political framework for harmonizing and energizing the efforts of the United Nations system on matters relating to post-conflict peace-building.

During 1999, UNOL has continued to assist the Government in facilitating communication with the United Nations on matters relating to peace-building and in providing political support to efforts to mobilize international assistance for national reconstruction.

In order to help Liberia take another resolute step towards peace, UNOL has been providing political and technical assistance to the Government in the ongoing critical exercise of the destruction of the large quantities of weapons and ammunition which had been collected during Liberia's civil war.

UNOL has also endeavoured to facilitate communications between the Government of Liberia and the United Nations as well as with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on peace-building and other matters related to subregional peace and security. It has been active in reducing tension between Liberia and its neighbours, in particular Guinea and Sierra Leone.

UNOL, in cooperation with the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone, and the Economic Commission for Africa, has joined efforts with ECOWAS to provide support to initiatives aimed at resuscitating the Mano River Union, a mechanism for subregional cooperation among Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. UNOL has also worked closely with the Government of Liberia in support of subregional efforts to achieve a political settlement of the Sierra Leone crisis and facilitate the implementation of the Lomé Peace Accord.

Much has been achieved in Liberia since the end of the civil war in 1997, but much more remains to be done, particularly in the area of national reconciliation, democratization, reintegration of former combatants, good governance and the promotion of the rule of law.

In view of the catalytic contributions UNOL has been making to Liberia's post-conflict peace-building efforts, the Government of Liberia has asked that the mandate of UNOL be extended until the end of December 2000. I should like to inform the Council that it is my intention to agree to this extension.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN